

12/07/2006 09:24 FAX

SB

001/003

JOHN CORNYN
TEXASRELEASED IN PART
B6**United States Senate**

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4305

December 5, 2006

Department of State
Office of Congressional Inquiries
2201 C Street NW, Room 591
Washington, District of Columbia 20520-0001
Fax: 202-647-1618

Re: 2 pages to follow

B6

My constituent has sent the enclosed communication. A response which addresses his concerns would be appreciated.

Please send your response to the following address:

Office of Senator John Cornyn
Occidental Tower
5005 LBJ Freeway, Suite 1150
Dallas, Texas 75244-6199

ATTN: Marissa Johannes
(972) 239-3453
(972) 239-2110 (Fax)

E-mail: Marissa_Johannes@cornyn.senate.gov

Enclosure

Constituent

B6

Web Mail Message

Web Mail Subject: cf_webmail

Senator,

I noticed the below article. Can you confirm if this is indeed true? If so, is there anything you can do to remedy this sad situation?

"According to a UPI report from last Friday, Khaled Al-Masri has been granted a visa for the United States. The report cites an unnamed state department official as follows: "Khaled el-Masri was found inadmissible to the United States on the basis of ... terrorist activities, and issued a visa on the basis of a waiver from the Department of Homeland Security."

B6

UNCLASSIFIED

003/003

Muslim detained by CIA granted U.S. visa - World - The Washington Times, America's ... Page 1 of 1

World -

Muslim detained by CIA granted U.S. visa

By Shaun Waterman
UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
November 17, 2006

A German Muslim whose detention and torture by the CIA prompted an apology from Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will be granted a visa to come to the United States, although he might still be refused entry.

"Khaled el-Masri was found inadmissible to the United States on the basis of ... terrorist activities, and issued a visa on the basis of a waiver from the Department of Homeland Security," a State Department official told United Press International.

The official declined to comment further, saying that the details of visa decisions were confidential.

Department of Homeland Security spokesman Russ Knocke also declined to comment on the case.

Under U.S. law, a visa does not give a foreigner the right to enter the United States -- something that is granted at the port of entry by inspectors working for the Department of Homeland Security.

"He could still be turned away" if he was on the U.S. watch list of known or suspected terrorists, said one official.

Mr. el-Masri, a German citizen of Egyptian origin, said in a lawsuit last year that he was stopped at the Macedonian border in December 2003 while on vacation, and handed over to U.S. officials, who beat and drugged him, and took him to a secret prison in Afghanistan, where he was detained without charge and subjected to "coercive interrogation" for five months.

His case has become a lightning rod for European criticism of the United States over secret CIA prisons and other practices, including secret imprisonment of terror suspects without trial.

Mr. el-Masri has always denied any link to terrorism, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel said last year that Miss Rice had apologized for what she called "a mistake."

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), which is representing Mr. el-Masri in his lawsuit, welcomed the news that he would be granted a visa.

"You would hope that after wrongfully detaining this man, torturing him, and then dumping him in Albania, they would have decency to let him come into the country to meet his lawyers," said ACLU attorney Anne Beeson.

But when Mr. el-Masri sought to enter the United States last December under the visa waiver available for German visitors, he was denied entry.

Copyright © 1999 - 2006 News World Communications, Inc.
<http://www.washingtontimes.com/world/20061116-111325-7449r.htm>

UNCLASSIFIED